

June 20, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service,  
CC Docket No. 96-45;**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Paul Nash of Verizon Wireless and I had an *ex parte* conversation today with Paul Margie of Commissioner Copps' office. We discussed the merits of adding an "equal access" obligation to the definition of Universal Service. Additionally, we discussed operational and financial issues associated with imposing an equal access condition upon Competitive Eligible Telecommunications Carriers. No materials were distributed.

If you have any questions, then please contact me at 202-654-5903.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Rubin  
Director of Federal Government Affairs